

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AGR-05

AID-05 ORM-01 DHA-02 HEW-02 OES-03 /105 W

----- 025480

R 020807Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0005

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EAID, PFOR, NO, VN

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN LABOR VISIT AND AID TO VIETNAM

REF: (A) OSLO 2654 (B) OSLO A-96

SUMMARY: A THREE-MAN NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) DELEGATION VISITED VIETNAM JUNE 10-18 TO DISCUSS AID, BUT WAS UNABLE TO VISIT SOUTH. THEY AGREED TO USE REMAINDER OF NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT VOLUNTARY AID FUNDS FOR PURCHASE OF COTTON OR RAYON AND DISCUSSED REPROGRAMMING OF UNUSED NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM FOR FERTILIZER. THEY WERE IMPRESSED AT VIETNAMESE HARD-WORKING PRAGMATISM, CONCILIATORY ATTITUDES, DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE FROM PEKING AND MOSCOW AND FOR CONTACTS WITH WEST. END SUMMAR.

1. LO DELEGATION OF INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGRE, JAKOB LANGLI OF OSLO CHEMICAL WORKERS AND  
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ARBEIDERBLADET REPORTER BJORN HANSEN VISITED HANOI JUNE

10-18 TO DISCUSS AND VERIFY USE OF NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT AID. THEY PLANNED TO VISIT SOUTH JUNE 16-18, BUT ALL FLIGHTS FOR DANANG AND BIEN HOA WERE CANCELLED AT LAST MINUTE AND NORWEGIANS DECLINED TO EXTEND VISIT ANOTHER WEEK TO ACCEPT PROFFERED GROUND TRANSPORT. THEIR MAIN VIETNAMESE CONTACT WAS NGUYEN THUYET, MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ON RULING COUNCIL OF TRADE UNION MOVEMENT. HANSEN'S PRESS REPORTING IS SUMMARIZED IN REFTEL.

2. DELEGATION WAS IMPRESSED BY HARD-WORK, COMPETENCE, PRAGMATISM, OPENNESS AND LACK OF REPRESSION FOR COMMUNIST SOCIETY RECONSTRUCTING AFTER WAR. THEY ALSO NOTED CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE, LACK OF ANIMOSITY FOR US (DESPITE CONSTANT REFERENCE TO BOMBING, DAMAGE FROM WHICH WAS MUCH IN EVIDENCE), DESIRE FOR CONTACTS AND ASSISTANCE FROM NON-COMMUNIST WORLD, STRESS ON NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND DELIBERATE DOWNPLAYING OF MARX, LENIN AND COMMUNIST DOCTRINE. VIETNAMESE SPOKE OF DEFEAT OF US "IMPERIALISM" IN SAME HISTORICAL-PHILOSOPHICAL TONE THEY USED FOR FRENCH "COLONIALISM", JAPANESE "FASCISM" AND CHINESE "FEUDALISM". THEY WERE NOTICEABLY CAREFUL AND RESTRAINED IN SPEAKING OF US AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN US ASSISTANCE "UNDER PARIS AGREEMENT". ANXIETY ABOUT MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE FROM CHINA AND USSR WAS PALPABLE AND BOTH SIDES COULD JOKE ABOUT HELPING EACH OTHER OUT VIS-A-VIS THEIR POWERFUL NEIGHBORS. EXTENT OF DAMAGE AND NEED FOR HELP WAS IMPRESSIVE, AS WAS RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. UNIFICATION WAS EVIDENTLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME; BORDER SOUTH WAS OPEN AND ADMINISTRATORS WERE GOING SOUTH. THERE WAS CONCERN ABOUT CONVERSION OF SAIGON'S "CONSUMER" SOCIETY TO A "PRODUCER" ONE, HOWEVER, SO ABSORPTION OF SAIGON WOULD EVIDENTLY BE LONG TERM.

3. DELEGATION AND VIETNAMESE AGREED THAT REMAINING FOUR MILLION NORWEGIAN KRONER (OVER \$800,000) OF LABOR MOVEMENT AID SHOULD BE USED EITHER FOR PURCHASE OF RAW COTTON THROUGH THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, OR FOR RAYON FROM NORWAY. (FIRST NKR. 2-1/2 LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILLION WAS USED FOR VITAMINS, ANTIBIOTICS AND CANNED MEAT THROUGH UNHCR.) THEY ALSO CONCLUDED THAT NKR. 25 MILLION OF NKR. 30 MILLION IN UNDISBURSED NORWEGIAN GOVERNMENT AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM SHOULD BE USED FOR IMMEDIATE FERTILIZER IMPORTS. REMAINING NKR. 5 MILLION SHOULD BE USED FOR FUTURE PLANNING FOR THREE LONG RANG PROJECTS FOR WHICH ENTIRE NKR. 30 MILLION HAD BEEN EARMARKED: (1) RED CROSS PROSTHETIC WORKSHOP (I.E.,

ARTIFICIAL LIMB PRODUCTION FACILITY); (2) "SAVE THE CHILD" CHILD REHABILITATION CENTER, AND (3) NORWEGIAN LABOR MOVEMENT REHABILITATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER. DELEGATION WILL RECOMMEND THAT LO RECOMMEND THIS TO GOVERNMENT, ALONG WITH SLIGHT FUTURE INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF AID TO VIETNAM TO BE USED MOSTLY FOR PURCHASE AND SUPPLY OF PRODUCTS OF NORWEGIAN INDUSTRY (FISHING BOATS, DAM BUILDING EQUIPMENT, ETC.).

4. DELEGATION WAS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES' PEOPLE IN VIETNAM (RIZVIN, ZENGER AND KREUGER), AND BY JOB THEY WERE DOING.  
BYRNE

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## Message Attributes

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